



April 10, 2023

Work Slowdowns Shut Ports of LA, Long Beach

Dockworker shortages at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach stretched into a second day on April 7th, according to a report in the Los Angeles Times. The Pacific Maritime Association called it a “concerted action to withhold labor” by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union amid contract negotiations.

“A majority of the shifts on April 6th went unfilled, including all jobs for cargo handling equipment operators needed to load and unload cargo,” said the PMA, which represents the ports. Some workers did show up, but they were released since there was not a full team of ILWU workers to operate the terminals.

A statement from the ILWU union, which represents dockworkers at Los Angeles and Long Beach, appear to deny that there is any deliberate action from the Union to cause this slowdown.

The ILWU stated that the “dockworkers are still hard at work to keep the flow of cargo moving through the ports.” They go on to also say that “their members are observing the religious holidays with their families as part of the reason for the current reduced labor force.”

The National Retail Federation is closely monitoring the situation in California, and has brought its concerns to the White House again. Ongoing negotiations between the ILWU and PMA should be resolved immediately, and the administration is being called on to be involved, and prevent any further disruption to port operations.

We will continue to monitor the situation, and if there are any further developments, we will be sure to inform you.

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